

**Friendship Heights
Transportation Management District
Advisory Committee
March 12, 2013**

Voting Members

Tiffany Gee (Chair)	Chevy Chase Land Company
James Calderwood	Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers
Barbara Condos	Town of Somerset
Campbell Graeb	Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Cobey R. Kuff	WP Project Developer, LLC
Allison Lazare (Vice Chair)	United Educators Insurance
Ann F. Lewis	Friendship Heights Village
John Mertens	Friendship Heights Village

Non-voting Members

Sandra L. Brecher	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
-Representing DOT Director	
Vacant	M-NCPPC

TMD Staff

Nakengi Byrd	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
Jim Carlson	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services
Sheila Wilson	MCDOT/Transit Services Division-Commuter Services

Absent

Aurelio Baca-Asher	The JBG Companies
Joe Dixon	GEICO
Capt. David Falcinelli	Montgomery County Police
Kenneth Hartman	B-CC Services Center
R. Mallory Starr	Somerset House Management Association

Guests

Kelly Peterson	DDOT
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Abbreviations:

COG = Council of Governments
 FTA = Federal Transit Authority
 TMP = Traffic Mitigation Plan
 WABA = Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Item 1, 2 & 3 – Introductions/Agenda approval/Chair’s Comments: Chair Tiffany Gee called meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

Vote: The Committee voted to approve January and February meeting minutes with changes.

Ms. Gee welcomed new voting member **Barbara Condos** to the Committee.

Mr. Carlson reported that **Kelly Peterson** from DDOT will be joining the meeting shortly and will provide an update to the Committee regarding Chevy Chase Circle signalization project and repairs along Western Avenue.

Item 4 – FY14 TMD Budget Priorities: **Mr. Carlson** reported that the meeting with **County Executive Ike Leggett** on March 5 was canceled due to weather; a future date will be announced. He also explained that the meeting setting in the CE conference room will allow more direct interaction between participants than the last meeting (held in the Executive Office Bldg. cafeteria).

Mr. Carlson said the priorities letter is basically in final draft form and has three main points. **James Calderwood** suggested adding language to the letter concerning notifying the public about the TRiPS stores as a convenient location, providing commuter information and fare media purchases.

Ms. Condos said she would advertise information regarding the TRiPS stores in the Village of Friendship Heights newsletter. **Mr. Graeub** suggested implementing a “how to” program to guide seniors through the process of purchasing fares at the Metro station. Other members suggested communicating with Giant grocery stores and other retail outlets in the community about TRiPS as a way to reach their customers.

Item 5 –Traffic Mitigation Plan (TMP) Annual Reports: There are five company reports up for review. The Committee reviewed a summary handout. **Mr. Carlson** explained that there are technical issues with the online link which has affected some companies’ responses in filling out the reports. This will be corrected. **Mr. Carlson** said he will meet with Whole Foods regarding submittal of a TMP and Polinger, Shannon and Luchs, to drop off commuter materials. **Ms. Gee** commented that Tiffany & Co. has a new manager who may not be aware of how to fill out the form. She offered her assistance if there were any more problems.

Mr. Carlson discussed some of the initiatives that businesses in the Friendship Heights area were doing to reduce traffic such as:

- Providing parking and transit parity
- Giving employee incentives for taking the Annual Commuter Survey
- Having Carsharing, electric docking stations and biking facilities including showers on property
- Offering pretax deductions for transit and Smartbenefits
- Offering Telework

Allison Lazare said that half of her company employees use a telework arrangement due to lack of office space.

VOTE: The Committee voted to recommend approval of the five TMP Annual Reports.

Cobey Kuff said he would assist **Mr. Carlson** in obtaining a TMP from Bloomingdales.

Ms. Brecher explained how TMP reports are an important tool in involving businesses in reducing traffic.

Item 6 – Updates: **Ms. Brecher** announced:

- MCDOT is conducting traffic counts in the TMDs, which will include counting pedestrian and cyclist movement. Funding restricts the number of intersections to be studied.
- The bikeshare contract with Alta Bicycle Share will be completed in the next few weeks. There are some final issues regarding pricing.
- There is no action to date on the mandatory bicycle helmet proposal in the state legislature.
- Commuter Services staff will participate in an information gathering meeting with Nick Ramfos, Washington Council of Governments (COG) Commuter Connections, to discuss the County’s access

to COG's commute information database. COG's "State of the Commute" is a comprehensive biennial survey of regional commuting patterns.

- The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is offering three Community Leadership Institute sessions in the spring at Maryland, Virginia and District locations.

Ms. Brecher commented about the additional challenges regarding bikeshare funding due to the different money sources. The mid-county and life sciences corridor funding comes from Federal Transit Authority (FTA) directly; whereas down-county bikeshare grant is financed by Maryland Department of Transportation that feeds Federal funding through the State.

Ms. Brecher discussed pending amendments to the proposed Bike Helmet Bill:

- Make the law apply to those 18 and under instead of the current 16 and under age requirement
- Condition wearing a helmet based on a speed limit of 35 mph or greater

Other issues regarding the bill were:

- Opposition from bike associations such as Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA)
- No position from the County Executive
- Negatively effects bikeshare due to impulse usage
- The bill affects bike insurance and registration
- Lack of police enforcement-Police required to provide information to violators

Ms. Brecher added that the bill may not receive committee support, and thus not make it to a full vote.

Kelly Peterson from DDOT updated the Committee on transportation projects in the Friendship Heights area. **Ms. Peterson** said there were no utility projects pending along Western Avenue, so she was unclear as to why the repaving on Western Avenue at Jennifer Street has not been completed. She did not see the paving project scheduled for FY14; however she will add it to the queue. She said she would also find out if a Committee letter of support will facilitate the repair process.

Ms. Brecher explained that the Committee does have the option of an ANC3E representative from the District serving in a non-voting position. **Ms. Peterson** replied that there are parties interested and she would help in the process.

In regard to the Geico light issue, **Ms. Peterson** explained the history of the light, stating that it was gifted to DDOT for operation and originally had blinked yellow from midnight to 5 am during Geico off-work hours, but was expanded to 7 pm-5:30 am. DDOT will signalize the light working in a red, green and yellow pattern with other intersections in the area during normal Geico work hours. DDOT will not move forward with redesigning the crosswalk with a pedestrian signal due to lack of pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Carlson explained the issue with jagged aluminum edges from a bracket that was around storm drains on the north side of Western Avenue which could injure pedestrians and cyclists in the area. **Ms. Peterson** said will do a walk around to look at the damage and follow up with repairs.

Ms. Gee commented that it was the Chevy Chase Land Company that pulled up a damaged tree at one of the properties along Western Avenue. It was struck by lightning.

Ms. Peterson announced DDOT's Urban Forestry website, which describes the tree removal prioritization program and provides a map of replanted downed trees and other such services. She advised the Committee to first use the online DC 311 web site (<http://311.dc.gov/>) to submit maintenance requests and, if necessary, email her for faster movement.

Additional announcements:

- Telework workshop in Frederick on April 10th and in Rockville on April 11th in the Executive Office Building, Lobby Level, Rockville
- Bike to Work Day May 17 – new Friendship Heights pit stop at Wisconsin Place.

Item 7 – New Business: **Ms. Brecher** asked for feedback for the upcoming meeting with **Nick Ramfos** from COG. **Ms. Gee** commented that Chevy Chase Land Company has a garage space reserved for carpools; however, there is no enforcement at this time to ensure it is used only for carpooling vehicles.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting April 9, 2013